

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 /121 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ N: AMBASSADOR ROCKWELL: AG

3/30/73 EXT. 20498

APPROVED BY AF/ N: RHPELLETREAU

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R 310047 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059672

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MO

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA

1. WHEN AMBASSADOR ROCKWELL IN WASHINGTON MARCH 30 ASKED MOROCCAN FONMIN BENHIMA WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND SPANISH FONMIN LOPEZ BRAVO IN RABAT MARCH 26. BENHIMA REPLIED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN CATEGORICALLY TO LOPEZ BRAVO. HE SAID THAT IF SPAIN INTENDED TO PRESENT MOROCCO WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI OF REFERENDUM WHICH WOULD RESULT EITHER IN DECISION OF CONTINUED ASSOCIATION OF SPANISH SAHARA WITH SPAIN OR FOR INDEPENDENCE, MOROCCO WOULD CREATE SITUATION OF GREAT INSECURITY FOR SPAIN IN SAHARA AND HAD MEANS TO DO SO. HE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT MOROCCO COULD NOT TOLERATE THAT THIS REGION, TRADITIONALLY ON INVASION ROUTE TO MOROCCO, SHOULD FALL INTO HANDS OF WEAK LOCAL REGIME LIKELY TO FALL EASILY PREY TO ALGERIAN OR LIBYAN INFLUENCE; NOR WOULD IT BE TOLERABLE THAT REFERENDUM REAFFIRM SPANISH CONTROL OF MOROCCAN TERRITORY.

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2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, BENHIMA HAD TOLD LOPEZ- BRAVO
BEST SOLUTION QUOTE UNTIL POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES HAD
FURTHER CHANCE TO RIPEN UNQUOTE WOULD BE CONTINUATION OF
STATUS QUO.

3. FONMIN SAID LOPEZ BRAVO VERY UPSET BY THIS MOROCCAN
POSITION AND ALSO BY UNYIELDING REFUSAL OF GOM TO CONTINUE
PERMIT SPANISH FISHING IN EXTENDED MOROCCAN FISHING ZONES.

4. BENHIMA SAID HE GOING NEW YORK TO ASK UNSYG ACTIVATE
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY FOR SPANISH SAHARA WHICH PROVIDED
FOR BY PERTINENT UN RESOLUTION AND WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN
FORMED. RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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